

Bratton Pack Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY248891
Inspection date	24 May 2007
Inspector	Linda Tomkins
Setting Address	St. Peters C of E Primary School, Bratton, Telford, Shropshire, TF5 0NT
Telephone number	01952 261628
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Registered person	Bratton Pack Out of School Club
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Out of School care

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Bratton Pack Out of School Club opened in 2003. It operates from a separate building situated in the grounds of St Peter's Church of England Primary School in Bratton, a suburb of Telford Shropshire. A maximum of 48 children may attend the out of school club at any one time. The club is open each weekday from 07.45 to 09.00 and 15.15 to 18.00 during school term-times and from 08:00 to 18.00 during school holidays.

There are currently 80 children aged from three to 11 years on roll. Children come from the local area. The club currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and also currently supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language

The club employs eight staff. Of these, six of the staff, including the manager, hold appropriate early years qualifications and five are working towards a higher qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Staff ensure individual medication records are meticulously maintained and they are aware of children's health and medicinal needs. Written parental permission for seeking emergency medical treatment or advice is in place. Members of staff have current first aid certificates and there are two first aid kits available. This means that parents and children will receive prompt treatment in the event of an accident or medical emergency.

Children understand how to keep themselves healthy. Children aged five and six years said 'we washed our hands to get the germs off, they make you poorly'. Children understand how germs spread and cross-infection occurs.

Children have their own water bottles and are able to help themselves to fresh drinking water and fruit juice both inside and outside, throughout the sessions. During school holidays children bring packed lunches which are stored in a cool area. Staff provide a choice of cereal, muffins and toast for breakfast and hot and cold snacks, such as pizzas and selection of crackers, cheeses and fruit. Children discuss a healthy lifestyle as part of planned activities. Children aged seven years said 'we used to have biscuits here but we don't now, we have fresh fruit it's very good for you'.

Children and staff work hard in their own garden area to grow potatoes, tomatoes, salad leaves and radish. The radish were freshly picked and included in the tea food.

The large outside playground areas provide space for children to have frequent opportunities to play with bicycles and balls. There is space to run and enjoy fresh air and exercise. In addition, children have an opportunity to use a shaded orchard area and purpose-built adventure playground with large equipment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are secure and confident in the well-organised club environment. Children understand how to keep each other safe because staff explain safety rules. Children said 'you have to wait for your Mum or Dad to collect you and sign you out'. Staff regularly practise the emergency evacuation procedures with all the children. This means that children are safe in an emergency situation.

Staff have identified potential risks and dangers and check the premises each session. In addition, the entrance doors are locked and staff monitor the building and outside play areas with close supervision of children. Children are well supervised when on trips where a higher staff to child ratio is employed. Outside boundaries are clearly explained, thus setting a balance between freedom and safety. Children said 'we stay in this playground and can go as far as the grass triangle'.

Children use a range of safe, good quality resources. They are able to choose from a varied selection provided each session. Staff encourage children to take responsibility for using equipment safely, monitoring condition and putting away.

Children are protected. Senior staff are responsible for child protection and staff have attended training and understand their responsibility to protect children in their care and report concerns to the Local Safeguarding Children Board. However, staff are not clear about the procedure for allegations made against staff, in particular, knowledge of obtaining signatures of parents when recording injuries a child sustains before arriving in the group.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are enthusiastic and self-assured in the club, particularly when choosing to play with construction bricks, art materials and imaginative games. Children group together for role play and said 'we are making a Chinese restaurant', they work together modelling food and laying the table. They relate well to each other and are absorbed in their imaginary world.

Children are excited and enjoy their time at the club where they play with their friends and develop new skills. Children said 'it's really nice here because you have lots of painting and make clay pots'. Children expect staff to join in their play and staff expect children to take an active part in choosing and developing activities by freely expressing their likes and dislikes at the childrens' meetings.

All children enjoy choosing from a range of resources such as art activities, board games, dressing-up and outdoor games. Children are absorbed and relaxed when working together and forming close relationships. They readily question and express their opinions, such as asking for alternative games and helping themselves to outdoor equipment.

Children are supported by the staff who encourage children to extend their experiences and are involved in listening and talking to them. They use the well-presented, good quality resources to meet the needs of all the children. In addition, during holiday periods children are taken on day trips on public transport to places, such as an aquarium centre in Birmingham.

The children are developing a sense of ownership of their club and make a record of activities they do which are stored in an information file for parents to read. They take an active part in compiling the club rules by asking each other for personal ideas and contributions.

All children enjoy regular outside play in the playground, grassed and paved area, orchard and adventure playground. The areas are secure and provide children with space to play team games, balance, swing and climb. This enhances children's sense of adventure as they discover their wider environment and new experiences.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are developing mutually respectful relationships with the staff and each other. They increase self-esteem and confidence as they voice their opinions, choose their favourite activities and discuss their individual needs and preferences with staff. They have a strong sense of belonging to their club, they are settled and relaxed. When asked 'who would they go to if they felt sad', children indicated the two senior staff members and said 'they look after me'.

Currently there are children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities attending and staff have policies and procedures to ensure the children are fully included and supported within the club. However, staff are not always fully supported by outside agencies to assist them in

forming strategies to ensure a positive impact on children with specific requirements. Staff and parents work closely together and share records regularly.

Children are well behaved. They know what is expected of them because they helped to agree and write their own club rules with staff and each other. Staff are good role models and take every opportunity to thank children for their help and good behaviour. They talk to the children throughout the session to ensure they understand the behaviour boundaries and respond to requests to help one another. Children help tidy up and remember to say 'please' and 'thank you'. Staff use innovative effective ways to gain children's attention during large-group sessions. For example, silently holding their hands in the air and wriggling their fingers.

Relationships with parents are friendly. Staff greet parents individually as they collect their children and take time to talk and share information. Parents are provided with notice boards displaying policies, procedures and operational details. Regular newsletters inform parents on forthcoming trips, outings and holiday opening dates. There is a clear complaints policy and procedure for parents with the regulator's contact details. This means that parents are provided with sufficient accurate information to make a complaint.

Staff make parents welcome and offer flexible care. They encourage them to share home information on their children and also express their expectations of the club with questionnaires and a suggestion box. There are strong links with the school and teachers and parents are invited to visit at any time as an open-door policy is in operation. This helps to ensure children have their individual needs met.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for by qualified staff who have knowledge and experience of how to promote the care and well-being of children. Staff enthusiastically attend training to increase and extend their skills. For example, child protection, first aid and behaviour management courses. The registered person uses robust recruitment, vetting and induction procedures to ensure staff are aware of the operational policies within the club. This ensures children are provided with appropriate activities to promote their health, safety and enjoyment. The procedures to ensure the continued suitability of the staff are being developed to ensure staff inform the manager of significant changes to their lifestyle which may affect their suitability to care for children.

Good teamwork makes sure staff work well together to promote children's achievements. Activities both inside and outside are organised with high staffing levels to ensure children are safe and supported.

Planned activities allow children to be grouped according to their individual likes and dislikes. Staff have agreed security arrangements for the delivery and collection of children which are discussed with children and parents. The registration certificate is on a display board so that parents are aware of the total registered numbers of the club.

There is clear floor space for indoor group activities. The outdoor space is utilised to maximise play opportunities for children. Most legally required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place and frequently under review and update. The out of school club meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the registered person was required to; ensure Ofsted is informed of any significant changes to the operation of the setting; to develop a lost child policy; and to improve arrangements for the induction of staff to include specific training in child protection and health and safety. The registered person was also asked to; improve children's access to resources that reflect diversity and promote equality of opportunity; ensure all accident records are countersigned by parents and written permission is gained from parents before applying sun screen lotions to children; to include Ofsted's contact details in the complaints procedure available to parents; and to improve staff's knowledge and understanding of current child protection procedures referring to the Department of Health publication; 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused'.

The registered person has implemented procedures to ensure that Ofsted is informed of all significant changes to the club. Staff have a comprehensive six month induction period and sign to indicate that they have completed the procedure. In addition, all staff have a comprehensive handbook and training profile which includes all training requirements to enable staff to meet the National Standards.

Staff have obtained resources and plan and provide a wide range of activities to promote a positive view of minority groups and ensure all children have equal access to resources. All accidents and written permissions for medical purposes are explained in written procedures and signed by all parents. Parents are made aware of the complaints procedure by a written policy included in their information handbook. Staff have attended training to improve their knowledge of current child protection procedures and a copy of the leaflet 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused' is displayed in the office. However, some staff practices are not fully compliant with the policy.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure that parents sign the existing injury record

- ensure the welfare and development of all children within the setting is fostered in partnership with other relevant outside parties.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk